

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

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P 032050Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3287

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1458

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: OAS SEC GEN CANDIDACY OF FONSEC GOMEZ BERGES

1. WE RECEIVED YESTERDAY FOLLOWING (IN TRANSLATION) THIRD PERSON
NOTE FROM SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS:

BEGIN QUOTE. THE SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS
PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND TAKES THE OCCASION TO REITERATE THE SUBSTANCE OF ITS
NOTE NO. DSSE-186-39 OF 22 AUGUST 1974, BY WHICH WAS SOUGHT, IN THE
NAME OF THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT, THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE CANDIDACY OF DOCTOR
VICTOR GOMEZ BERGES, SECRETARY OF STATE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,
FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN
STATES.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE THE
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS ARE CLOSE TO REALIZATION, SINCE THEY
WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION,
WHICH WILL BE HELD THE COMING MONTH OF MAY, THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT
HAS GREAT INTEREST AND URGENCY IN KNOWING THE POSITION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH REGARD TO THE
CANDIDACY OF DOCTOR VICTOR GOMEZ BERGES.

THE SECRETARIAT WOULD THEREFORE BE APPRECIATIVE IF THE
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EMBASSY INTERPOSED ITS GOOD OFFICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING

A REPLY TO THIS REQUEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END QUOTE

2. LAST NIGHT AT DINNER I INQUIRED OF FONSEC GOMEZ BERGES REGARDING THE PURPOSE OF THE NOTE SINCE AMBASSADOR VICIOSO UNDER INSTRUCTIONS HAD RECENTLY MADE AN ORAL DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON ON THE SAME SUBJECT AND HAD BEEN GIVEN THE US POSITION BY A SENIOR DEPT OFFICIAL. WITH SOME SURPRISE, GOMEZ IN TURN ASKED WHETHER DEPUTY SECRETARY PADILLA HAD EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF THE NOTE TO EITHER ME OR DCM AXELROD. WEHN I REPLIED NEGATIVELY THAT THE NOTE HAD ONLY JUST COME IN THE MORNING'S MAIL, GOMEZ WAS SOMEWHAT CHAGRINED AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME TODAY.

3. THIS MORNING I WAS ASKED TO SEE PADILLA WHO ALLUDED WITH SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO THE "SLIGHT CONFUSION" OF YESTERDAY AND THEN LAUNCHED INTO A PITCH FOR US SUPPORT OF GOMEZ' CANDIDACY. IN REPLY, I REAFFIRMED THE US POSITION. PADILLA IN TURN GAVE THE HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION OF ONE CANDIDATE HAVING ELEVEN VOTES AND THE FAILURE OF THE US TO SUPPORT THAT CANDIDATE FORCING THE ASSEMBLY TO SCRAMBLE AND POLITIC IN UNSEEMLY FASION. I REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH I WAS IMPERFECTLY INFORMED, I DOUBTED THAT ANY CANDIDATE HAD ELEVEN SURE VOTES AT THIS STAGE. PADILLA AGREED (THIS IS THE FIRST ADMISSION TO ME BY A SENIOR GODR OFFICIAL THAT GOMEZ MIGHT HAVE LESS THAN ELEVEN VOTES).

4. I INQUIRED WHETHER THE NOTE WE HAD RECEIVED YESTERDAY WAS CIRCULAR TO ALL AMBASSADORS OF OAS MEMBER STATES. PADILLA REPLIED THAT NOTE HAD ONLY BEEN SENT TO THE THREE UNCOMMITTED COUNTRIES: US, PERU AND ECUADOR. I THEN ASKED WHETHER A PARALLEL NOTE WOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY AMB VICIOSO. PADILLA REPLIED "POSSIBLY"

(I DOUBT IT).

5. I THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE DEPT MIGHT FIND IT STRANGE THAT SO SOON AFTER AMB VICIOSO'S DEMARCHE, TO WHICH A CLEAR ANSWER HAD BEEN GIVEN, THE GODR WAS MAKING ANOTHER EFFORT, ADMITTEDLY MORE FORMAL, TO ASCERTAIN THE USG POSITION. PADILLA, IN REPLY, STRESSED THE FACT THAT THE ELECTION WAS NOW ONLY A MONTH AWAY AND EMPHASIZED THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD SUPPORT GOMEZ BERGES. I CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT I WAS CONFIDENT THE USG POSITION AS GIVEN TO AMB CONFIDENTIAL

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VICIOSO HAD NOT CHANGED, BUT THAT I WOULD TRANSMIT THE NOTE TOGETHER WITH THE MAIN POINTS OF OUR CONVERSATION.

6. SINCE ONLY A MONTH HAS ELAPSED SINCE AMBASSADOR VICIOSO'S DEMARCHE AND SINCE WE ASSUME THAT NO CONSENSUS CANDIDATE HAS EMERGED FROM DEPT'S SOUNDINGS AT OAS MEMBER STATE CAPITALS (WE HAVE SEEN ONLY A FEW OF THE REPLIES), WE PROPOSE TO REPLY TO THE GODR, UNLESS DEPT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE, THAT THE US POSITION

REMAINS UNCHANGED AND THAT WE WOULD BE GUIDED IN OUR VOTE BY
WHATEVER CONSENSUS DEVELOPED AMONG THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OAS.
HURWITCH

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